

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of December 15, 2005, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Commented on specification.
- B.) Objected to claims 1, 5, 6, and 8.
- C.) Rejected claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Hawkins, et al.*
- D.) Rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Hawkins, et al.* in view of *Yamamoto*.
- E.) Rejected claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Hawkins, et al.* in view of *Nagasako*.
- F.) Allowed claim 9.

Applicants address the Examiner's disposition below. Claims 1-8 have been canceled.

- A.) Regarding Examiner's comment on specification:
Applicants are not aware of errors in the specification.
- B.) Objection to claims 1, 5, 6, and 8:
Claims 1, 5, 6, and 8 have been canceled.
- C.) Rejection of claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Hawkins, et al.*:
Claims 1 and 3-5 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Applicants will file a continuation application with claims 1-8.
- D.) Rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Hawkins, et al.* in view of *Yamamoto*:
Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Applicants will file a continuation application with claims 1-8.

E.) Rejection of claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hawkins, et al. in view of Nagasako:

Claims 6-8 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Applicants will file a continuation application with claims 1-8.


F.) Allowance of claim 9:

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 9 is patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch
SONNENSCHNEIN, NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Telephone 312/876-2606
Customer #26263
Attorneys for Applicant(s)